

Fire doesn't slow Alden

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Insurance coverage is expected to cover the cost of fire damage to a classroom and adjoining areas in the Alden School on the evening of the first day of school Aug. 30. Damage estimates are at least \$5,000 and likely will rise, Superintendent John Antonucci said. No one was injured.

An oscillating fan left running in the room sparked the fire. The second day of the 2017 – 18 school year at the grade 3 – 5 school opened as scheduled.

“We thankfully had two open classrooms nearby,” Antonucci said.

Students in the affected rooms were relocated to other classrooms. The superintendent said teachers, staff and students took everything in stride.

Final costs to clean up and restore the damaged area have the potential to climb to the tens of thousands of dollars, he said. The electrical fire ignited the top part of the fan. The fan overheated and collapsed.

“We don’t have hard numbers yet,” said Antonucci. “The main expense will be cleaning and some restoration.”

The fire department efficiently took control of it, helping to minimize the damage, the superintendent added.

Rob Reardon, captain of the Duxbury Fire Department/ Regional Dispatch Center, said firefighters were dispatched to the 75 Alden St. school at 8:53 p.m. on Aug. 30. The last unit was cleared at 3:57 a.m., Aug. 31. Fifteen firefighters responded over that time, Reardon said. “It really was just a freak accident,” Antonucci said. “We are very thankful to our custodial staff who noticed it.”

Despite the fire, the school year at the town’s four public schools went well, the superintendent said.